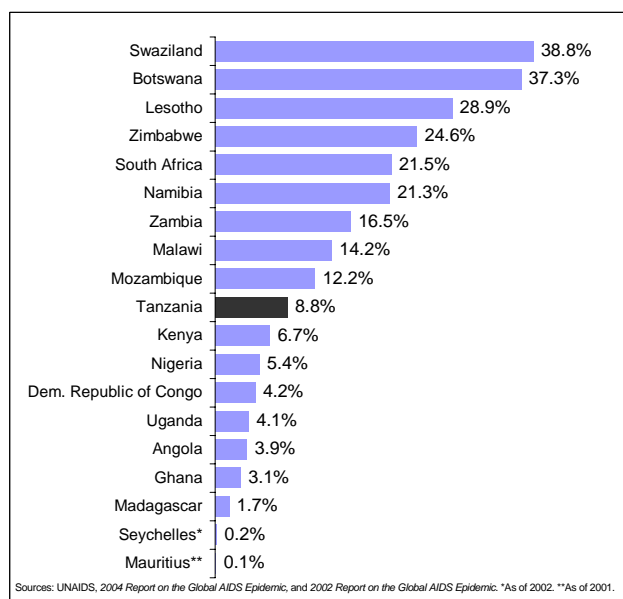


### The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the United Republic of Tanzania

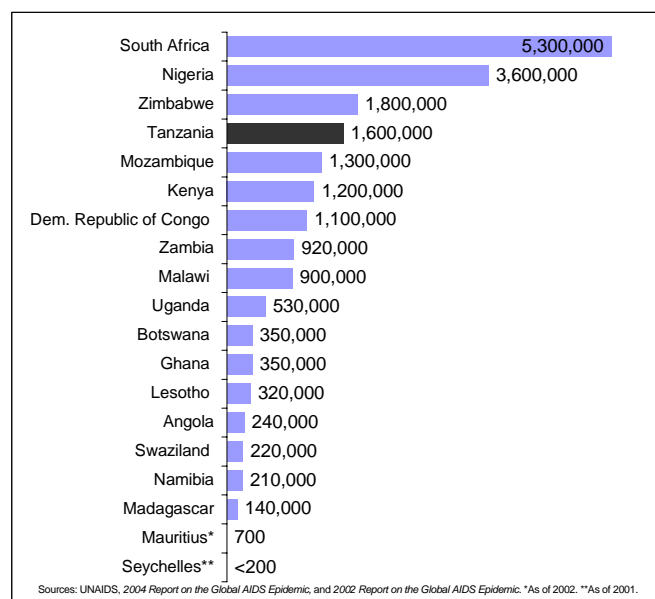
October 2005

The United Republic of Tanzania (mainland Tanzania and the island of Zanzibar), the largest country in East Africa, had an estimated 1.6 million people living with HIV/AIDS as of the end of 2003.<sup>1,2</sup> Although Tanzania's prevalence rate (the percent of people living with the disease) is lower than some of the hardest hit countries in the sub-Saharan African region, it is higher than the prevalence rate of the region overall (8.8% compared to 7.5%).<sup>1</sup> The epidemic poses significant development challenges to this low-income country.<sup>2,3,4,5,6</sup> In 1985, the National AIDS Control Programme was established to respond to the epidemic.<sup>6,7</sup> The Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) and the Zanzibar AIDS Commission (ZAC) were created in 2001 and 2002, respectively.<sup>8</sup> Tanzania is currently operating its National Multi-Sectoral Strategic Framework on HIV/AIDS for 2003-2007.<sup>3,9</sup>

**Figure 1: Percent of Adults Estimated to be Living with HIV/AIDS, 2003**



**Figure 2: Number of People Estimated to be Living with HIV/AIDS, 2003**



#### Overview

- The first case of AIDS in Tanzania was reported in 1983.<sup>2,6,7,9,10</sup>
- Tanzania had an estimated 1.6 million people living with HIV/AIDS as of the end of 2003.<sup>1</sup>
- The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate<sup>11</sup> in Tanzania is 8.8%, higher than the prevalence rate of the sub-Saharan African region (7.5%) and the global rate (1.1%).<sup>1</sup>
- In 2003, an estimated 160,000 Tanzanians died of HIV/AIDS,<sup>1</sup> which is estimated to be the leading cause of death among adults in Tanzania.<sup>9</sup>
- HIV is spread primarily through heterosexual sex in Tanzania.<sup>6,7,9</sup>

#### Populations and Regions Affected

- Women account for more than half (56%) of adults estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in Tanzania.<sup>1</sup>
- Among young people ages 15-24, the estimated number of young women living with HIV/AIDS in Tanzania was more than twice that of young men.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2003, 140,000 children<sup>13</sup> in Tanzania were estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS and there were almost one million AIDS orphans (980,000 as of the end of 2003).<sup>1,14</sup>
- The epidemic varies across the country, with significantly higher HIV prevalence rates found in urban, compared to rural, areas.<sup>7</sup>

#### Other Key Data

- **Concern about HIV/AIDS:** Tanzanians are concerned about HIV/AIDS. Almost nine in ten (88%) say that HIV/AIDS and other epidemics are a "very big" problem in Tanzania. More than four in five (87%) Tanzanians feel that HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases are the greatest threat to the world.<sup>15</sup>
- **Knowledge of HIV/AIDS:** Although a recent study among young people ages 15-24 in Tanzania found that about two thirds of young men (68%) and young women (65%) knew that a healthy looking person could be infected with HIV, these levels of awareness are not as high as those in many other African countries and significant stigma and misconceptions about HIV disease remain.<sup>1,9</sup>
- **Access to Antiretroviral Therapy (ART):** Access to ART is quite limited in Tanzania. With over 300,000 people in need of ART, Tanzania is among the 20 countries identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as having the highest unmet need for ART. As of June 2005, an estimated 5,500–9,500 people were receiving ART (2-3% of those in need).<sup>16</sup>

## International Support/Major Donors

- A number of donor governments provide funding and other support to address Tanzania's HIV/AIDS epidemic, including the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Norway, Germany, Canada and Sweden.<sup>3</sup> Tanzania is one of the 15 focus countries of the United States Government's President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).<sup>17</sup> U.S. bilateral aid for Tanzania was \$70.7 million in FY2004; this amount is expected to increase to \$108.8 million in FY2005.<sup>18</sup> The U.S. also provides support for HIV/AIDS efforts around the world through its contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (The Global Fund).
- The Global Fund has approved four HIV/AIDS grants (including one HIV/TB grant) in Tanzania.<sup>19</sup>
- UNAIDS and the UN Family support a variety of HIV/AIDS activities in Tanzania.<sup>2,3,7</sup> The World Bank has approved \$70 million in funding to support the Multi-Sectoral AIDS Project.<sup>20</sup>

**Table 1: HIV/AIDS in Tanzania**<sup>1,12,16</sup>

Indicator	Tanzania	Sub-Saharan Africa	Global
Estimated number of people living with HIV/AIDS, 2003	1.6 million	25 million	37.8 million
Percent of adult population estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS, 2003	8.8%	7.5%	1.1%
Estimated number of deaths due to HIV/AIDS, 2003	160,000	2.2 million	2.9 million
Women as percent of adults estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS, 2003	56%	57%	48%
Percent of young women, ages 15-24, estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS, 2001	6.4 – 9.7%	8.9%	1.4%
Percent of young men, ages 15-24, estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS, 2001	2.8 – 4.3%	4.4%	0.8%
Estimated number of AIDS orphans, 2003	980,000	12.1 million	15 million
Number of people estimated to be receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART), June 2005	5,500 – 9,500	500,000	970,000
Number of people estimated to be in need of ART, June 2005	307,000	4.7 million	6.5 million

## Key Sources/Websites

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- Zanzibar AIDS Commission (ZAC): [www.zacaid.com/](http://www.zacaid.com/)
- UNAIDS Tanzania Country Page [www.unaids.org/en/geographical+area/by+country/united+republic+of+tanzania.asp](http://www.unaids.org/en/geographical+area/by+country/united+republic+of+tanzania.asp)
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